10/27/66

Dear Bill and Maggie,

Chalk one up for our side! I did persuade Ramparts to bring Penn back to Phila. I had just finished the enclosed letter to Sylvia when I got a phone call from Jack McKinney, one of the very best guys, with a vast audience that I wish would double overnight! When I was not at all convinced that I had persuaded Marc Stone, Ramparts's pr man, to bring Penn back from Chicago, I wrote WCAU a long letter day before yesterday outlining to them how they could air Penn by phone. While I was in DC today Jack's producer phoned and when I got home her phone was busy for two hours so I didn't get her. I presume this is what she wanted to tell me. There is little time before the show starts. But here is what Penn will have: four hours live tonight, 10-2; four hours immediate repeat of tape, 2-6; and if he does the kind of job I think he can, some Saturday night they'll repeat the tape, I think for a total of eight hours, but maybe for only six. This is a clear-channel station. In a single mail I've had mail from the Florida Keys and Bermuda to so far above Montreal the man said there was no bookstore within 400 miles; to west of Madison in Wisc., down to La. and Alabama, and a particularly large response from Ohio.

By now you should have gotten (meaning by the time you get this, not the time I write it) the ms. Please just drop me an acknowledgement of receipt for it is my only complete carbon and I do worry. I'll soon be sending you some zowieeee! additions. Very short, but I think you will stop worrying about Liebeler and many others when you see it, and on two of the most important points. This is as close to irrefutable stuff as one can hope for.

Had a long phone call tonight from Whelan(Founding Father) who is on assignment for the Saturday Evening Post on this. I knew about this three or four weeks ago and agreed to give him what help I could when I spoke to the appropriate Post editor. This editor then told me he had encouraged Whelan to look me up. He did today. He's coming tomorrow. He delayed until he could read all the books and form his own impressions of the people, including me, first. This I like for I do not have to worry about shaping his opinion of me, by which I mean inf-irly. My hunch is that the Post expects him to solve the crime. He cannot. My next hunch is that the only kind of a story he can do is on us. He asked me a few questions by phone about my motivation that gives me this feeling. Whether the Post will do that is another thing. I've a lot of respect for his reputation, but I do not think he is as good as the Post wants, not in this field, anyway. We'll see. I'll keep you posted of there is anything to say.

...For the first time something came between us as we slept last night. That inadequate little transistor set. We stayed up until midnight hoping the roller-coaster fading would stop and the surges of music from adjacent frequencies would go back where they belong But it didn't happen, We got just snatches. I fell asleep before Lil, determined to awaken early to hear the rerun. Five o'clock they had some wonderfully articulate disertation on ancient Latin American cultures. I do not know what happened to the rerun of Penn. The first thought that occurred was exhaustion. He was to do something in Washington Monday 1 a.m., next night he was supposed to be on Long John, that's midnight to 5 a.m., then henwas to go to Chicago. But the parts we heard were truly excellent. Only we heard too little. The spontaneous lines came out like carefully-prepared and rehearsed. On Henry Wade's cokment to UPI about something not even his little girl, Penn came right back "I can't speak for Henry Wade's little girl" then wham! Henry Wade out from behind the juvenile skirts. He was wonderful.

How nice it is that first his daytime producer phoned during the daytime, then his nighttime producer phoned, to be sure I'd know, then when Jack came in ahead of time(Penn was in the cafeteria, so I didn't get totalk to him) he took the phone. When Jack had to prepare for thi show, lining up the commercials and things like that, he asked me if he should send to the cafeteria to get penn on the phone. I think it is just great there are such warm people in the media. I told him not to get Penn so he could finish either eating or relaxing or both. Anyway, Penn's part of the story has now reached a major part of the eastern part of the country, has reached a basicelly receptive and well-educated audience, and has done much good. I understand Sylvia did very well a week or so ago when she was on.

It seems to have done me good, too, for I'm not as tired this morning as I have been. I'll spend the rest of it until daylight catching up on other mail, then we've got to do the grocery shopping, then Whalen is coming, and then I've a few small additions that will have to be in the form of postscripts to add to the ms., and then what urgent mail I didn't answer before Whalen's arrival will get answered.

The Phila. Inquirer has a long piece on Liebeler Jack told me about. He is sending it to me. (He also spotted pretty much the same things I had in Liebeler's and UCLA's position. Maybe he'll say something about it some night when he has no guest.)

Hope you can save and send the Liebeler clips from out there, so I can inform myself and be ready for the day we do confront, either directly or by remote. Please let me know what you think of the possibility (and the idea) of trying to needle him by remote.

I'm not needling you, just checking. If you mailed the Burke tape back, it has not gotten here. Speaking of tapes, you seem to have had some experience with tape recorders of decent quality. Should I get in the position where I feel I can buy one, what would you recommend. I'd like to be able to play the tapes of some of my appearances sometime. I'll probably get the sound track of the coming Metromedia show, etc. I'd like the machine also be be a decent one for music, especially so that we can tape the Metropolitan Opera, of which my wife is fond. And I'd like it to be stereo. Is it ever possible to pick up a decent second-hand one. There is little call for such here in the country, but the radio and TV shop in the next town is run by a competent craftsman who could probably repair it and whose charges are so much less than those in big cities.

We still have remnants of the past. I got my new portable typewriter for an electric a friend in New York gave me because it cost more to overhaul up there than it is worth there and $10.00. For this I got the current Royal model, bought in July and repossessed last month.

Best to you all

Copy of 10/27 to Sylvia eee.